

Maria Horsfall nee
Pietersma
Dutch Immigrant
Ascania
December 5, 1951

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION MUSEUM PIER 21



Editor's Note: See Jakob Pietersma story by Maria Horsfall nee Pietersma for further information about the family.



My recollections about coming to Canada are very small, as a 4 1/2 year old, you would not remember too much. I do remember being on the ship Ascania in 1951 with my mother, father, Jakob and Gerarda Pietersma and my two sisters at the time Emma and Theresia.

I remember a fire drill on board on the way over and all I saw was everyone's legs, as we were all crowded on deck. That is basically it.

We arrived in Halifax, and boarded a train for Edmonton, Alberta.

A few years ago I was in Halifax and wanted to see Pier 21. It was not a museum yet but what I saw at that time brought tears to my eyes, as some of the markings (arrows) were still on the floor, for directing people. I could imagine the excitement and fear for many starting a new

SECOND CABIN AND TOURIST CLASS Imm. 182

IMMIGRATION IDENTIFICATION CARD

THIS CARD MUST BE SHOWN TO THE EXAMINING OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL

Name of passenger PIETERSMA, M.

Name of ship ASCANIA

Name appears on Return sheet 32 line 9

Medical Examination Stamp

Civil Examination Stamp

LANDED IMMIGRANT

IMMIGRATION CANADA

DEC 2 1951

HALIFAX, N. S.

(See back)



life in Canada, and to know that I had walked in those same footsteps years before was quite something.

I would like to see Pier 21 again. We have had a good life in Canada, but one always wonders what life would have been like if the move was never made. I have visited Holland twice now, and it is nice to see where you come from.

Father, Jakob Pietersma, deceased Jan 6, 1999



Mother, Gerarda Maria Pietersma

Daughters

Thersia Martha Pietersma, now Thersia Hansen

Maria Pietersma, now Maria Horsfall

Emma Pietersma, now Emma Brigden

Yvonne Pietersma, now Yvonne Worsley (born in Canada)

The train took us to Edmonton, where we lived for years. Theresia still lives in Edmonton, and the rest of us are all in B.C. now.